

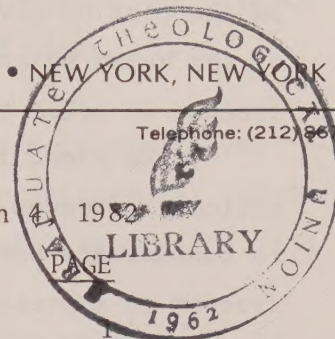
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ALLIN JOINS SUPPORT
PLEDGE FOR POLISH PEOPLE

DPS 82059

WASHINGTON (DPS, March 4) -- Presiding Bishop John M. Allin of the Episcopal Church joined 13 other American religious leaders in a strongly-worded statement of "support for and solidarity with the people of Poland in this time of crisis in their native land."

The panel issued the statement after an unusual State Department briefing held by Secretary Alexander Haig who had invited the leaders to Washington.

In their two-page statement the Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant and Jewish leaders assured the Polish people: "As members of the same human family under God, we stand together with them and sustain them in their present anguish," and went on to lash the deprivations under the three-month-old martial law reign imposed by the Polish government.

"We raise our voices in the name of that freedom without which men and women cannot live a life that is truly human. We protest the imposition of martial law, the internment of Lech Walesa and other responsible leaders, and the suppression of organizations of working people and others. We deplore the repression imposed on the Polish people, the loss of life and the separation of families. We watch with distress the suppression of spiritual and moral values and the inalienable rights of men and women.

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"The denial of basic human rights in a society, even for a limited time on the plea of civil order, strikes at the heart of justice, crushes the dignity of the human person and makes impossible even a semblance of peace. True freedom is never the enemy of true order.

"We plead for the full restoration of rights and freedom in the Polish nation -- freedom of religion, freedom to form independent organizations, freedom to communicate one with another, freedom from unjust and painful repression, and freedom to express the natural aspirations of humankind.

"We salute the many efforts already made, and continuing to be made, to assist the Polish people through donations of food and other necessities by voluntary and official agencies. This response to basic human needs must continue and be multiplied in the time ahead. We pledge ourselves to cooperate in this humanitarian endeavor.

"We call upon all people of good will to join with us in this plea and to assist in any way they can the cause of justice and peace for Poland. We ask, finally, for the prayers of all, that God will extend his special peace and blessing to this suffering people, making strong their faith and hastening the time of their deliverance.

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DAVID BIRNEY ELECTED
BISHOP OF IDAHO

DPS 82060

by Carol Hosler
Editor, *The Idaho Messenger*

BOISE, Idaho (DPS, March 4) -- David B. Birney, coordinator of overseas ministries at the Episcopal Church Center in New York City, was elected eighth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Idaho at a special convention here Feb. 27.

Birney, 52, received the required majority votes in both the clerical and lay orders on the fifth ballot. A close runner-up was the Rev. James T. Booth, rector of St. John the Evangelist Church, Stockton, Calif. The other three candidates presented by the search committee were the Rev. James Davis, rector of St. Stephen's Church, Boise; the Rev. Logan E. Taylor, Jr., rector of St. Joseph's Church, Grand Prairie, Tex.; and the Rev. Robert E. Brown, rector of St. Christopher's Church, Kailua, Oahu, Hawaii. A sixth candidate, the Rev. Albert E. Allen, rector of the Church of the Ascension, Twin Falls, Idaho, was nominated from the floor.

Birney has accepted the election, subject to the consents of the majority of the standing committees and bishops of the Episcopal Church.

Reached at his home in Upper Montclair, N.J., and suffering jet lag from a 40-hour return trip from Africa, he said "I am overwhelmed and deeply grateful to God that this has happened. You have shown love and confidence in me and I pray that I am worthy of it and that we all will be proven faithful."

He will succeed the Rt. Rev. Hanford L. King, Jr., Ph. D., who retired last September because of poor health.

Born in New Orleans, and raised in Lancaster, Pa., Birney graduated from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster and Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Va. He was ordained deacon and priest in 1955.

After serving parishes in York, Hanover, and Allentown, Pa., Birney and his wife Virginia were called to Uganda. Birney taught pastoral theology at Bishop Tucker Theological School until forced to leave because of the rule of Idi Amin. He then was assistant to Bishop Shannon Mallory in Botswana in charge of leadership development. He assumed his current post with the national Church six years ago where he also coordinates the Volunteers for Mission program and the Companion Diocese program and serves as the Episcopal Church liaison to African Anglican provinces.

The Birneys have two sons, ages eight and two.

The election convention was characterized by an atmosphere of prayer from the opening eucharist, in the meditations led by the Rev. Don Sower during each counting of the ballots, all through the night and day prayer vigil in St. Michael's Cathedral, and in the closing hymns and prayers.

A summer consecration is expected.

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FREE MEAL PROGRAM
OPENS IN MILWAUKEE

DPS 82062

MISWAUKEE, Wisc. (DPS, March 4) -- "The Gathering at St. James" is the name of the newest ministry with the needy in the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee. The volunteer-run free meal program got into gear recently when the Rt.Rev. Charles T. Gaskell, bishop of Milwaukee, visited the historic downtown Church to bless the program and the workers and to remind them that Jesus' mission was to minister to the suffering, friendless and needy.

"The Gathering" is the mutual brain-child of the Rev. Canon Michael Stolpman, canon to the bishop of Milwaukee and the Very Rev. Charles Lynch, rector of St. James Church on Wisconsin Avenue.

The idea of operating a meal program had been building in the minds of both priests for some time out of their concern over the increasing number of poor and elderly who were unable to get a daily hot meal on their own. Several inner city Churches were providing food on weekday and Sunday evenings, but until "The Gathering at St. James" opened its doors, nothing was available on Saturday.

Lynch and Stolpman began the project after consulting with members of various parishes from around the metropolitan area and soliciting financial and volunteer support. They got workers and contributions, and with some paint and elbow grease whipped the kitchen facilities at St. James into shape. The health authorities gave their stamp of approval and the weekly soup and sandwich program was off the ground. Despite the lowest temperatures in the recorded weather-history of the city, the response from both volunteers and guests confirmed the urgent need for such a program. The guests flooded into St. James' dining room from all over the downtown and Marquette University area.

One elderly man walked 20 blocks for some warm food on what was then the coldest morning of the winter season. He was about an hour and a half early, so he sat sipping coffee and reading until the kitchen officially opened. The man said that he had no job and no income and was a regular at one of the dining halls a few blocks away.

A woman about the same age appeared a short time later and took a place at the table. She was part of a crowd -- mostly men and older folks, a few blacks and Hispanics. Many needed shaves, baths or warm clothing. A number had neither hats nor gloves, although the wind-chill index on opening day was 53 degrees below zero. A handful of young children were guests along with their parents.

And there were several youths in the kitchen, along with a mixture of people of various ages from parishes around the city. Although "The Gathering" is sponsored by St. James Church, it receives financial support from the Diocese of Milwaukee and various individuals and parishes in the Milwaukee area. These same resources provide the volunteer help which prepares and serves the food each Saturday. Gaskell and the diocesan executive board cooperated by naming "The Gathering" as one of the recipients of Venture in Mission hunger funds. Martha Minnich from Christ Church in Whitefish Bay is the program coordinator; and Kathy Stolpman, Canon's Stolpman's wife, handles scheduling volunteers. The only complaint from the volunteers is that they cannot be asked back to serve at "The Gathering at St. James" for four or five months. The food-for-the-hungry program opened in January but the volunteer schedule filled up through June immediately.

St. James Church is located on the west side of downtown Milwaukee, a block from the campus of Marquette University. According to Lynch, "The Gathering" joins the varied ministries already sponsored by the parish: the deaf mission for the diocese, the university church for Episcopalians, the court chaplain's office and an on-going ministry to transients and street people. St. James Church is located on the city's Court of Honour, and serves a highly diversified congregation drawn from the far reaches of the city.

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Picture Caption

#82062 Milwaukee's elderly and poor found the record-breaking cold of the winter ameliorated somewhat recently when St. James Episcopal Church began a Saturday hot meal program to fill a gap in city services. The service began in the inner-city parish in late January with Bishop Charles T. Gaskell present to offer blessing for the program and exhort the volunteer workers.

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FUND BOARD ACTS
ON RELIEF GRANTS

DPS 82063

GREENWICH, Conn. (DPS, March 4) -- At its February meeting, the Board of the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief approved regular grants totalling \$281,087 for refugees, relief and rehabilitation and short term development grants, in addition to \$62,750 in emergency grants already disbursed.

The board heard a report by the Fund's director, the Rev. Samir J. Habiby, and other staff on the new direct relationship authorized at the November 1981 board meeting between the Bureau for Refugee Programs/Department of State and the Episcopal Church for the reception and placement of refugees by dioceses and parishes through the Presiding Bishop's Fund.

Habiby reported on conversations with Church World Service officers following this step and shared a letter to the Rev. William DuVal, chairman of that group's Immigration & Refugee Program committee in which he assured them that the new "cooperative agreement" did not mean a lessening of ecumenical concern. "The Church and the Fund remain fully committed to ecumenical cooperation and effective sharing of resources. I would also stress that this Church will continue its traditional, warm support of Church World Service's endeavors in meeting its share of the overall budget."

In commenting on the final financial report for 1981, Habiby noted that the actual income for 1981 from church giving to the Fund was \$2,278,100.85. This was in addition to U.S. Government derived reception and placement grants totalling \$763,039.40 and \$247,625.56 remaining available funds from the Rochester Gift. In addition, there was \$850,000 contributed by the Diocese of Southwest Florida in Global Hunger monies to Venture in Mission.

Habiby noted that the general undesignated receipts of \$1,464,900.78 indicated a strong support of the Fund's program. This represents a 30.6 percent increase over 1980.

The Fund is continuing its East Africa Appeal for which Presiding Bishop John M. Allin in his Christmas-Ephiphany letter, called "upon all Episcopalians this Christmas-Ephiphany Season to pray for the peoples of the Horn of East Africa and to give to the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief to help alleviate their suffering." Nearly \$150,000 had been received for that appeal by year-end.

The board formally endorsed eleven emergency grants made in 1982 to date, for a total of \$62,750.

The Administration and Finance Committee reaffirmed the need to establish a reserve fund line item of 10 percent of the total estimated 1982 general (undersigned) receipts, which, to start 1982, should be \$160,000.

In consideration of regular funding requests, the board approved the following rehabilitation and development grants as recommended by the Grants Committee (listed by diocese):

- Mississippi Food and Nutrition and Human Services, dealing with the overall symptoms of poverty in Tallahatchie County, \$9,500.
- Spokane Food Bank, \$4,000.
- Haiti for training of Haitian religious sisters, \$30,000.
- Tennessee (APSO) for the Plateau Home School to address a high drop-out rate in Morgan County Schools, \$5,000.
- Lexington for Interfaith of Bell County in its role as one of information, renewal and advocacy, \$7,200.
- Washington Policy and Education Project (Development GAP), \$10,000.
- Nicaragua, CEPAD, \$5,000.
- Bethlehem Urban/Rural Food Interdependencies (VOICE), \$10,000.
- Arizona World Hunger Ecumenical Arizona Taskforce, \$1,500.
- Applied Nutrition Program, Antigua (Meals for Millions/Freedom from Hunger Foundation), \$12,000.
- New York Local Church Guide to World Hunger Organization, \$2,000.
- Los Angeles for its African Studies Center at UCLA in partnership with the Episcopal Church, \$25,000.
- Washington Free Clinic for adolescent health/education/counseling community outreach, \$30,500.
- Los Angeles Interfaith Hunger Coalition, emergency food assistance networking project, \$10,000.

The Refugee/Migration Affairs Committee submitted the following grant requests, totalling \$93,887 in Church-donated funds (CF) and \$25,500 in Bureau for Refugee Programs government-derived funding (BRP):

- To provide interpreters, arrival orientation and follow-up services for new refugee arrivals in Colorado: \$7,500 (BRP);
- To ease the adjustment of arriving refugees, to help them achieve self-sufficiency and to promote the principle of mutual assistance through Indochinese Refugee Social Services in Virginia: \$11,000 (CF);

- For sponsorship, resettlement, job counseling, English as a second language (ESL) and spiritual guidance for all refugees arriving through Eastern Christian Refugee Center in Newark: \$8,000 (BRP) and \$4,500 (CF);
- To provide orientation assistance and pastoral care for Cuban and other Latin American refugees, maintain half-way homes for Cuban "B" cases and offer paralegal interpreter services through the Episcopal Center Refugee Services in Louisiana: \$10,000 (BRP) and \$42,087 (CF);
- To provide direct services and to provide basic personal needs for resident Haitians through the Haitian Refugee Project. To provide ESL, legal assistance and to promote advocacy on behalf of Haitians in Lexington: \$4,000 (CF);
- To support ongoing extensive ELS programs in Olympia through St. Peter's Church in Seattle: \$4,800 (CF);
- To support a program coordinator of ESL in Olympia through St. John's Church in Seattle: \$3,500 (CF);
- To the National Coalition for Refugee Resettlement (PBF/WR contribution for membership and program support): \$3,000 (CF);
- To the American Immigration and Citizenship Conference (PBF/WR membership contribution): \$1,000 (CF);
- To the Church of the Province of Kenya for pastoral ministry to refugees: \$20,000 (CF).

In reporting out its programs, the Committee on Refugee/Migration Affairs passed on a resolution regarding the issue of alleged use of virulent toxins in chemical and biological warfare in Southeast Asia, and sent it to the Executive Council. The Council endorsed it and forwarded it to government authorities.

Dr. Edward A. Holmes, the collegial officer for Overseas Development, reported on long range development, stating that meetings recently completed during his trip to the Sudan resulted in a revised, but satisfactory, proposal for \$3.4 million in relief and long term development grants to that country.

The Education & Communication Committee commended Mr. & Mrs. John Goodbody who have retired for the second time. They also stressed the importance and urgency of continuing the Network Office.

Other positions on the staff of the Fund which are open are the Special Services Officer and the Administration/Finance Officer, both in the Refugee/Migration Section.

